

Welcome to Year 6



September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. We have had a lovely week seeing the Year Six children again, and we hope that you all managed to relax over the summer break. Please remember that the partnership between school and home is essential and if you have any concerns please do let us know as soon as possible. Year 6 is an exciting time for your child to show and develop their maturity, and we are sure that all the children will be ready to face the challenges and responsibilities of their final year at St Michael's Junior School. As you know, all the Year 6 classes are named after explorers (David **Attenborough**, Christopher **Columbus** and Ernest **Shackleton**) and we look forward to learning more about these inspirational people throughout the year.

This year, we will be conducting our "Meet the Teacher" event via Google Meets. This will be on **Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 5pm**. A link will be posted on the stream on Google Classroom allowing you access to the meeting. If your child does not have their Google Classroom login please email the school office: adminoffice@st-michaels-jun.hants.sch.uk to request it; we are also able to reset any forgotten passwords. There will be an informative presentation from the year group team and the opportunity to ask any questions. The meeting will also be recorded and made available on Google Classroom, if you cannot make it. This meeting will provide you with more information about the year ahead. Some of this information may change as the year progresses but we will endeavour to update you as soon as we can if this is the case.

We are planning to hold virtual parents' meetings this term, which will take the place of the usual parents' evenings for safety and social distancing purposes. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

Important Dates

As you will be aware, applications for Year 7 secondary school places must be made this half term too – the deadline is October 31st. In previous years, local secondary schools held open evenings. Most schools also held tours during the day. Schools may have changed this procedure due to COVID-19 – please contact secondary schools and their websites for further information about this.

The Key Stage 2 tests are currently timetabled from Monday 9th May to Thursday 12th May 2022. More information will be given in the Spring Term.

PGL Information Evening – Thursday 16th September 2021 3.30pm

Meet the Teacher (via Google Meets) – Tuesday 21st September 2021 4.30 - 5pm

Roles and Responsibilities

In Year 6, children will be given the opportunity to take on roles of responsibility within the school; being a House Captain or Sports Leader are just two examples. Further information regarding the House Captain application process will be shared with the children shortly. We know the children will enjoy these responsibilities and carry them out with pride. It is really important to us that our Year 6 children are role models for the rest of the school and demonstrate our school values of Respect, Courage and Resilience in all that they do.

PE Kits

Children should have a t-shirt in their house colour, black shorts and trainers/plimsolls please. Coloured T-shirts with the school logo can be purchased from our uniform supplier Link Up. In colder weather the children will often benefit from wearing a tracksuit. It is useful if the children have a spare pair of socks in their PE bag (especially for girls who wear tights). Please note that only stud earrings should be worn and these **MUST** be taped up for PE. Please provide your child with tape if this applies. All PE kit **must** be clearly labelled. Children should bring their PE kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday.

Year 6 PE days will be **Monday** and **Thursday**.

Snacks

Please remember that we have children in school who are severely allergic to nuts and nut products. Therefore any snacks provided must not contain these products. Snacks should be healthy in accordance with our healthy schools initiative such as fruit or vegetable sticks. All snacks for morning break should be kept in their lunchbox or a small named container.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school every day. **Water only please.**

Punctuality and Attendance

It is extremely important that your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn. Doors open at 8:35am, the school day begins at 8:45am and all pupils are expected to be in school at this time. Morning registration is at 8:50 am and closes at 9:00am.

Homework

Homework will begin on the 7th October and will be sent home each **Thursday** with the expectation that it will be returned by the following **Wednesday**. This is the same across the school. Homework will be provided on Google Classroom each Thursday. Please contact your child's teacher if your child needs a paper copy.

In Year 6, weekly homework will consist of reading, spelling and times tables or arithmetic to enrich our learning in class. Please support your child to complete this to the best of their ability. If they need further guidance from school, then they just need to ask their class teacher. It is helpful if this is done before homework is due in please.

Reading

In everything we do we foster the love of reading and this can carry on at home; encourage your children to read anything – books, newspapers, magazines, recipes (maths as well!) or even the back of the cereal packet! They can read aloud or quietly on their own and children of all ages always enjoy being read to. Whilst we know family life is busy, research and our own experiences show that it really does make a difference to children's learning and achievements.

Your child should be aiming to read for at least 20 minutes, four times a week. Many children will of course be reading for longer than this due to the nature of the text that they are reading. It would be appreciated if you would support your child in keeping their Reading Record up to date. Children and/or parents should write a comment about the book they are reading or how they have read, including the discussions you may have had regarding the text content.

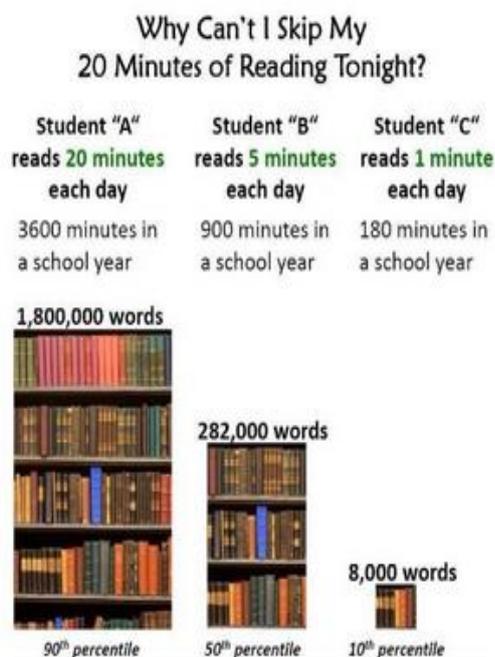
Every child has been given E-Library access and we encourage as many children as possible to use this service, which offers a range of e-books and audio books. Teachers can provide recommendations from our School Library Service. We can provide more information in our parents' meetings.

Spellings

Spellings will be set weekly and children should practise their spellings every evening. Children will be tested on a **Wednesday** and the children's work will be monitored to ensure they are applying their new spelling knowledge. It is not just about the children spelling their words correctly in a test.

Times Tables/Arithmetic

Children should continue to practise their Maths at home. We use TTRockstars as an online resource to support children to learn their times tables. The children's scores from TTRockstars will also be checked on a **Wednesday**. When we look online at scores, we are looking at the improvement for each child. The aim of this learning is to not only increase children's knowledge but also their speed and fluency at recalling related number facts. Children who have graduated from TTRockstars will continue to be given arithmetic homework alongside their times tables practice.



Topic related project

This homework will be given termly and will relate to the topic that the children are studying within their year group. As it is project based, the children will be able to select their own method of presentation. The projects will need to be submitted on a set date which will be detailed on the homework.

Uniform

It is important that your child is dressed in the correct school uniform please. We are aware of a supply issue currently so please don't worry if you have to mix and match initially. High expectations are important for our school community. The children need to wear their uniform with pride. Please help us to ensure that this is the case. Uniform consists of:

Boys' Uniform

- Wine coloured crew neck sweatshirt with school logo
- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Maroon fleece badged with school logo
- Grey or Black Trousers
- Grey or Black Shorts
- Grey or white socks
- Sensible black school shoes (no trainers)

Girls' Uniform

- Wine coloured crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- White polo shirt with or without school logo
- Maroon fleece badged with school logo
- Grey pleated pinafore dress, pleated skirt or trousers
- Red checked dress
- Sensible black school shoes
- Grey or white socks
- Grey tights

Please note that the St. Michael's logo school fleeces can be worn in place of the school sweatshirt or cardigan.

Optional items for Year 6 only

- White shirt.
- School tie (can be purchased from Link Up)

All belongings, including all items of school uniform, **MUST** be clearly labelled to aid their return should they be lost. If your child mislays an item, please contact your child's teacher.

Hair

Long hair should be tied back during the school day. Please use plain headbands, clips or bobbles that complement the school uniform.

Jewellery

The only jewellery the school permits a child to wear is a plain small wrist watch and/or plain small studs for earrings. Pupils with earrings must remove them for PE or tape them as noted above. Other items are not permissible in school.

Head Dress

The school recognises that some faiths require headdress to be worn and this is respected.

Mobile Phones and Walking Home

We do understand that there may be a need for a child who walks to and from school independently to be contactable and so may need a mobile phone. If this is the case, please contact the school office as written agreement needs to be in place for both the mobile phone and with regard to permission to walk home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Down, Mrs Dean, Mr Edwards, Mrs Tyler, Miss Brown, Miss Shephard, Ms Wren and Mr Nixon
The Year 6 Team